

TWO NEW SPECIES OF AGERATINA (ASTERACEAE-EUPATORIEAE)
FROM DURANGO, MEXICO

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Routine identification of Asteraceae from northwestern Mexico has revealed the following novelties.

AGERATINA GRASHOFFII B. L. Turner, sp. nov. Fig. 2

A. cordifolia accedens sed foliis deltoideis vel triangulario-ovatis, capitulescentibus nonglandularibus.

Erect, sparsely branched, perennial herb, 0.8-1.5 m high, arising from stout corm-like rhizomes, the root-system fibrous. Stems terete, striate, 2-5 mm wide, sparsely puberulent, purplish or purplish-mottled, the upper nodes remote, at mid-stem the internodes 10-40 cm long. Leaves opposite, 10-25 cm long, 5-12 cm wide; petioles 3-10 cm long; blades triangular-ovate to deltoid, 3-5 nervate from the base or from somewhat above, sparsely puberulent above and below primarily upon the venation, the margins irregularly crenulo-dentate. Heads numerous in remote, somewhat rounded, corymbose panicles, the latter (1)3-7 arising out of the upper axils, the ultimate peduncles puberulent, mostly 5-15 mm long. Involucre broadly turbinate, 6-8 mm long, 2-3 seriate, subequal; bracts ca 20, linear-lanceolate, green or purplish, ca 1 mm wide, the apices acute to acuminate. Receptacle plane, glabrous. Florets 18-25, somewhat longer than the involucre; corollas tubular, white or pinkish, 5-6 mm long, glabrous, the throat gradually tapering into the tube, the lobes ca 1 mm long. Anthers ca 2 mm long. Styler appendages minutely papillose. Achenes columnar, 3-4 mm long, hispid; pappus of 20-30 fragile, barbellate bristles, mostly 3-5 mm long. Chromosome number, $2n =$ ca. 34 pairs (as determined by the late J. Grashoff who collected the type).

TYPE: MEXICO. DURANGO: 26 mi WSW of Durango on highway 40 to Villa Union. Few seen in rocky soil, 28 Sep 1970, Jerold Grashoff 496 (holotype TEX).

Additional specimens examined: DURANGO: Mpio. Durango, 1 km E of Otinapa, along the arroyo that passes through Otinapa, 6 Oct 1978, Garcia 788 (TEX). Mpio. Mezquital, W of Station Madre de Ocotan, along an arroyo, 16 Oct 1984, Gonzalez & Acevedo 1508 (TEX); 3 km S of Station Madre de Ocotan, 17 Oct 1984, Gonzalez & Acevedo 1559 (TEX); ca 10 km from La GUAJOLOTA, 30 Sep 1985, Solis 407 (TEX); 8 km from La GUAJOLOTA, 6 Oct 1985, Solis 433 (TEX).

Ageratina grashoffii belongs to the subgenus Neogreenella and is clearly related to A. cordifolia (B. L. Rob.) K. & R., a species with conspicuous glandular trichomes in the capitulescence and possessing strongly cordate leaves. As noted by McVaugh (1984) the A. cordifolia complex is in much need of revisionary study but the taxon described here, what with its deltoid leaves and non-glandular capitulescence, appears clearly distinct.

It is a pleasure to name this taxon for the late Jerold Grashoff who collected the holotype and who's unpublished doctorate (Grashoff, 1972) on the North American Stevias is the most incisive study of that difficult genus to date.

AGERATINA SUNDBERGII B. L. Turner, sp. nov. Fig. 1

A. acutidentata accedens sed foliis latioribus, petiolis brevioribus, capitulis magnioribus.

Erect perennial herbs 50-70 cm high. Stems simple, terete, striate, purplish, coarsely puberulent. Leaves opposite, mostly 3-5 cm long, 1.5-4.0 cm wide; petioles 1-2 mm long; blades ovate-elliptic, 1 1/2 to 2 times as long as wide, somewhat leathery, sparsely puberulent above and below along the veins, 3-5 nervate from the base to somewhat pinnately reticulate, the margins rather evenly serrate. Heads 30-60 in terminal rounded corymbose panicles 3-6 cm high, 10-15 cm across, the ultimate peduncles 3-10 mm long. Involucre turbinate, subimbricate, 2-3 seriate, 6-7 mm high, bracts 10-12, lanceolate, 1-2 nervate, 3-7 mm long, 1.0-1.8 mm wide, puberulent. Receptacle plane, glabrous. Florets 8-16 per head; corollas tubular, white, 5-6 mm long, glabrous or nearly so. Anthers ca 2 mm long. Style branches papillose, somewhat enlarged at the apex. Achenes black, columnar, 3.5-4.0 mm long, sparsely ciliate, the podocarp markedly differentiated; pappus of ca 25 white, flattened, rather persistent barbellate bristles, 5.0-6.5 mm long.

TYPE: MEXICO. DURANGO: Mpio. Durango, 41 mi WSW of Durango along highway 40, 39.9 mi E of Las Adjuntas; on sandstone in oak-pine-madrone forests, 27 Sep 1984, Scott Sundberg & Matt Lavin 2894 (holotype TEX; isotype MEXU).

Additional collection examined: DURANGO. Mpio. Mezquital, ca 10 km from La Guajolota, pine-oak forest, 30 Sep 1985, I. Solis 406 (TEX).

The species belongs to the subgenus Neogreenella and is apparently most closely related to Ageratina acutidentata (B. L. Rob.) K. & R. which, in my opinion, includes A. durangensis (B. L. Rob.) K. & R. Ageratina sundbergii is readily distinguished by its much larger heads and broader leaves with shorter petioles.

It is a pleasure to name the taxon for Dr. Scott Sundberg, promising synantherologist whose speciality is the genus Aster. I am grateful to Dr. M. C. Johnston for the Latin diagnoses.

LITERATURE CITED

- Grashoff, J. 1972. A systematic study of the North and Central American species of Stevia. Doctoral Disseration, The University of Texas, Austin.
- McVaugh, R. 1984. *Flora Novo-Galeciana* 12: 1-1157.

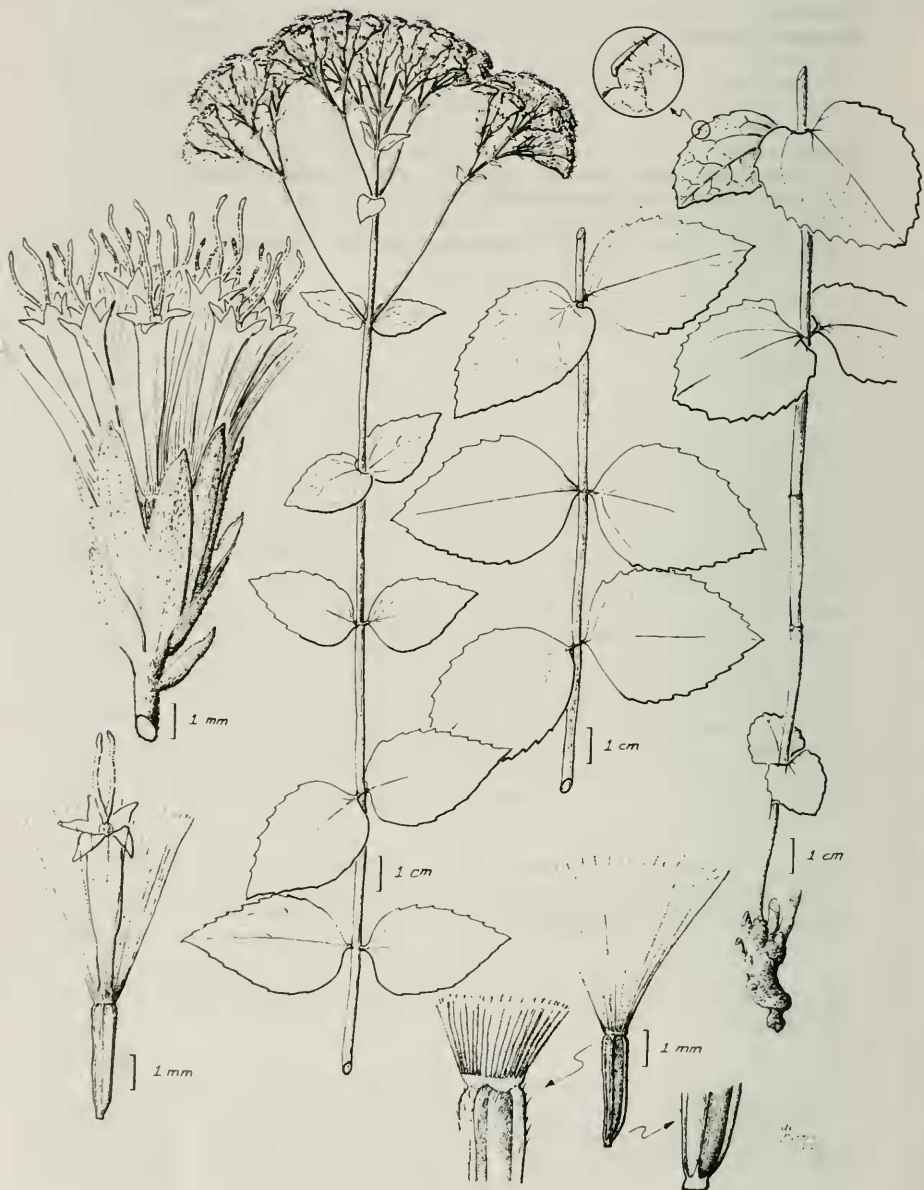


Fig 1 *Ageratina sundbergii*, from holotype.

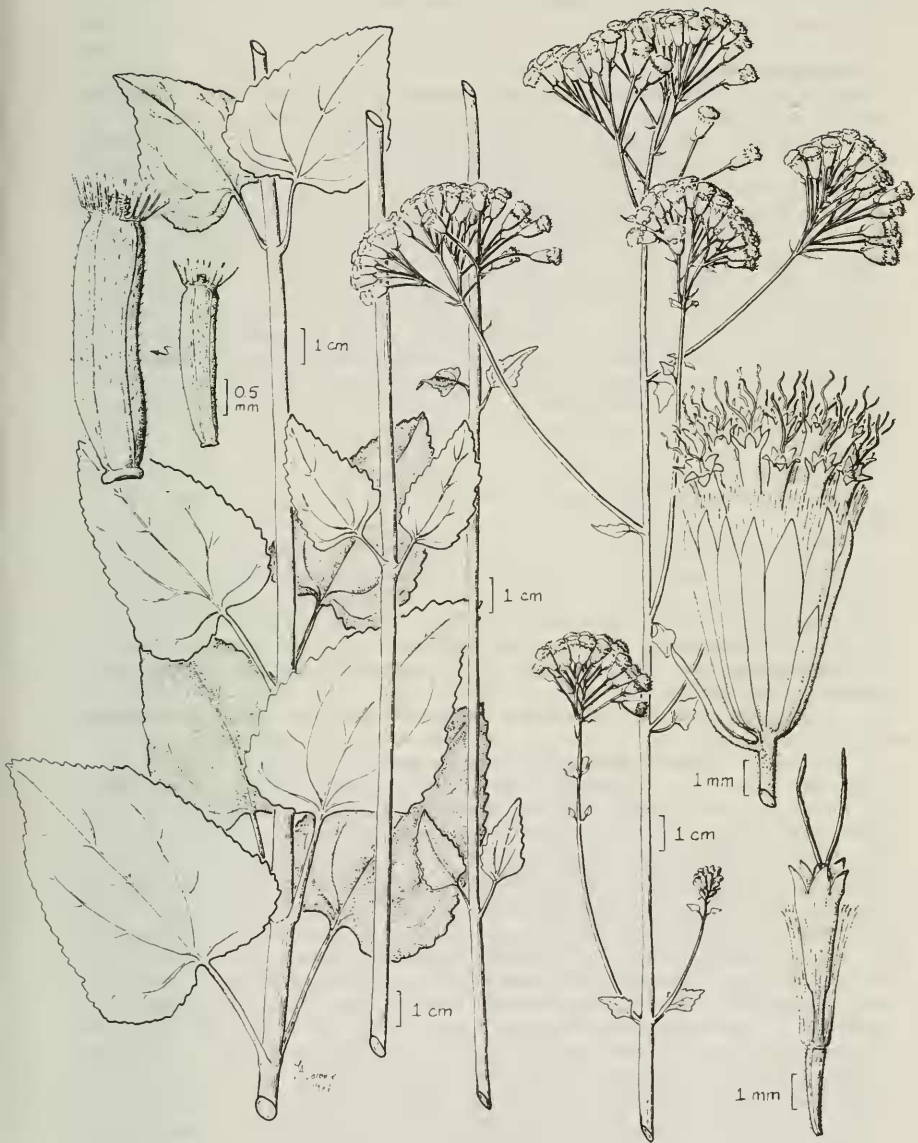


Fig. 2. *AGERATINA GRASHOFFII*, from holotype.